

Nathan Appleton House
(Women's City Club)
40 Beacon St.
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-813

HABS
MASS,
13-BOST,
94-

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM
FOLIOS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

ADDENDUM TO:
NATHAN APPLETON HOUSE
(Women's City Club)
40 Beacon Street
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS MA-813
MASS, 13-BOST, 94-

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to NATHAN APPLETON HOUSE (Women's City Club)

HABS No. MA-813

Location: 40 Beacon Street, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The townhouse is located within the Beacon Hill National Historic Landmark District, and later was designated as an individual NHL.

Significance: Appleton was a pivotal figure in early American commerce and industry. In 1815, acting as agent for the Boston Manufacturing Company, he founded the first textile sales agency, establishing the precedent of separating manufacturing and marketing operations. Dubbed the "Great Manufacturer," Appleton helped shift New England's economy from its former commercial base to an industrial base after the War of 1812. His daughter Frances married Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at this residence. The elegant Beacon Street bowfront, one of twin town houses designed by architect Alexander Parris, was the home of the Women's City Club of Boston from 1914 to the 1990s.

Architects for later renovations include Perry, Shaw and Hepburn as well as Richard Walsh.¹

Description: Originally the townhouse rose up three stories and was capped by a balustrade that screened the low-pitched roof from view. Each half was identical in plan and was three bays in width. The end bay curved outward, accommodating two windows and lending a graceful bow-front to the street façade. Later, another story was added, although the balustrade was kept and re-installed. The original cornice remains in-situ.

Materials: Field measurements for the stair are included in the field notes for this record. Likely these were drawn as part of the 1930s recording effort.

¹ Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), Inventory No. BOS.4086; "Nathan Appleton House," Nomination 1977, National Register for Historic Places.